Choral Scholarships

The Music Programme offers up to four Choral Scholarships each year.

The Choral Scholarship Programme is a way of supporting students in their studies. Scholarships are currently set at a value of ~\$2,500 for the choir season (approximately \$250 per month). Scholarships are available to university students and/or advanced high school students (age 16 or older).

Scholars are expected to exhibit strong commitment and loyalty to the choir duties, punctuality with regard to weekly rehearsals and services, and a proactive attitude to learning. Each scholar should have previous choral experience, strong sight-reading skills, and a voice that blends. The scholarship is valid for one year, but may be renewed in subsequent years. This is not a contract position.

Each candidate must pass an audition, which consists of tests to determine vocal range and character, the performance of a prepared piece of the candidate's choice, and some sight singing. There will be a four-week probation period for successful candidates to determine suitability, for both parties.

To arrange an audition, please contact Organist and Choirmaster Wesley R. Warren by telephone at 613.232.6992 (church office), by e-mail at parishoffice@primus.ca, or by speaking to him after service.

Organist and Choirmaster

Wesley R. Warren, M Mus, FRCO (Chm), ARCT has been Organist and Choirmaster at St Barnabas since 1987. An honours graduate in music from the University of Toronto (B Mus, organ) and the University of Michigan (M Mus, organ), he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO) and an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto (ARCT, piano). In addition to his duties at St Barnabas, he is a member of the Examination Committee of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and performs with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Mr. Warren has been broadcast frequently on CBC Radio and has performed extensively as a recitalist throughout Canada, the United States, Britain, and Europe. He has studied choral conducting at university and at the Royal School of Church Music, London under Stephen Cleobury, John Rutter, and David Hill. A recipient of many honours and awards, he has guest-conducted various choral groups and has given workshops on a wide variety of topics in the choral arts.

Music Programme AND Choral Scholarships

AT THE
CHURCH OF ST BARNABAS
APOSTLE AND MARTYR
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The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa
The Anglican Church
of Canada

MUSIC PROGRAMME AT ST BARNABAS

Introduction

Centrally located in downtown Ottawa, the Church of St Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr was formed in 1889, and the first building erected in 1890. The current building, completed in 1931, is of modified Byzantine style with excellent acoustics. The parish maintains a high quality of worship and sacred choral music in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. The very fine organ (rebuilt by Casavant in 1982 and revoiced by Sylvain Brisson in 1998) is featured in regular recitals.

The Choir

The Choir at St Barnabas is a mixed (SATB) ensemble of 16-18 singers, who are highly motivated with excellent music skills, and is composed almost entirely of volunteers from several denominations who are sympathetic to the Anglican tradition. They maintain a large repertoire drawn from the rich treasury of liturgical choral music, including Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony (mass and motet settings by Palestrina, Byrd, Victoria, Lassus, et al.) and contemporary works (by Howells, Rutter, Gjeilo, et al.). The Choir was pleased to win first prize in the Liturgical Choir category of the National Choral Competition, 2010, co-sponsored by the Association of Canadian Choral Communities (ACCC) and CBC/Radio Canada. They released a CD, Exsultate Deo, in 2012.

A limited number of spaces becomes available from time to time for extra singers. We welcome experienced choral singers with strong sight-reading skills and the ability to blend with other voices.

If you are interested in joining the Choir, please contact the Organist and Choirmaster to arrange an interview. Financial assistance with voice lessons is available.



Choir Duties

The Choir sings at the traditional High Mass each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. during the choir season (which runs from the third week of September until mid-June), and at Solemn Evensong and Benediction at 7.00 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month (October-November, February-May); in December, Evensong is replaced by the Advent Carol Service on the first or second Sunday). The Choir also sings at a limited number of solemn feast days on weeknights throughout the year (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, etc.), and at the principal liturgies of Holy Week (Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). There are occasional services sung by smaller groups or by a single cantor. Visits to other churches, concerts, and recordings round out the schedule.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m., and an hour before each service.

